

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

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PCT JUN 14 2005

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CPI

7/21/05 Response to WG
(Final 1/21/05)

MW&E

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

(PCT Rule 43bis.1)

09 JUN 2005

Applicant's or agent's file reference MCMK-4A-PC		Date of mailing (day/month/year) FOR FURTHER ACTION See paragraph 2 below
International application No. PCT/US05/01856	International filing date (day/month/year) 21 January 2005 (21.01.2005)	Priority date (day/month/year) 21 January 2004 (21.01.2004)
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC IPC(7): B29C 51/22 and US Cl.: 264/477; 425/115		
Applicant MICROCONTINUUM, INC.		

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. I	Basis of the opinion
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. II	Priority
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. III	Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. IV	Lack of unity of invention
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VI	Certain documents cited
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VII	Certain defects in the international application
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VIII	Certain observations on the international application

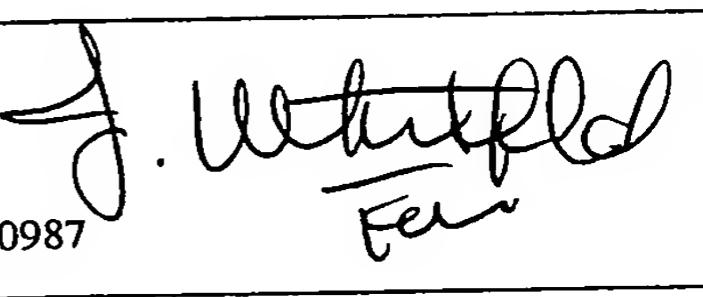
2. FURTHER ACTION

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA") except that this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of 3 months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Name and mailing address of the ISA/ US Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230	Authorized officer Ben Utech Telephone No. (571) 272-0987	
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WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

International application No.

PCT/US05/01856

10/588098

Box No. I Basis of this opinion

1. With regard to the language, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

This opinion has been established on the basis of a translation from the original language into the following language _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b)).

2. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:

a. type of material

 a sequence listing table(s) related to the sequence listing

b. format of material

 in written format in computer readable form

c. time of filing/furnishing

 contained in international application as filed. filed together with the international application in computer readable form. furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.

3. In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.

4. Additional comments:

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

International application No.
PCT/US05/01856

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43 bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims <u>3,4,6-20</u>	YES
	Claims <u>1, 2, 5</u>	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims <u>NONE</u>	YES
	Claims <u>1-10, 20</u>	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims <u>1-20</u>	YES
	Claims <u>NONE</u>	NO

2. Citations and explanations:

Claims 1, 2, and 5 lack novelty under PCT Article 33(2) as being anticipated by Tamura et al (5,096,401), Wessels (5,620,769), or Ampulski (6,554,601). Tamura, Wessels, and Ampulski teaches the claimed invention having a drum with projections, dispenser, a layer that is shaped, a radiation source, and a roller to press the layer against the drum.

Claims 3, 4, 6-10, and 20 lack an inventive step under PCT Article 33(3) as being obvious over Tamura et al (5,096,401), Wessels (5,620,769), or Ampulski (6,554,601). One skilled in the art would recognize the apparatus taught in the reference can be used according to the choice of the user. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art that the claimed invention is taught by the references.

Claims 11-19 meets the criteria set out in PCT Article 33(2)-(3), because the prior art does not teach or fairly suggest a method having a method including a step of softening the polymer layer prior to embossing by the drum.

Claims 1-20 meets the criteria set out in PCT Article 33(4), and thus has industrial applicability because the subject matter claimed can be made or used in industry.